

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9, 15, 19, 21, 79, 82-85, 88 and 91 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 20, 23-78, 80, 81, 86, 87, 89, 90 and 92-101 have been cancelled. New claim 102 has been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1 - 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15 - 19, 21, 22, 79, 82 - 85, 88, 91 and 102 are now pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

New claim 102 recites "a deflecting mechanism at a distal end of the insertion section, the deflecting mechanism bending between a longitudinal configuration in which the deflecting mechanism is substantially straight and a deflected configuration in which the deflecting mechanism is bent to form an arc, the deflecting mechanism including a lateral opening extending longitudinally along a portion of a wall thereof" and "a first actuator member extending through the insertion section to couple to a distal portion of the deflecting mechanism so that actuation of the first actuator member bending the deflecting member from the longitudinal configuration to the deflected configuration" in combination with "a second actuator member extending through the insertion section to the end effector assembly to actuate the end effector assembly wherein, when the deflecting mechanism is in the deflected configuration, the first and second actuator members extend across the arc outside the deflecting mechanism via the lateral opening and, when the deflecting mechanism is in the aligned configuration, the first and second actuator members are fully received therewithin."

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references show an arrangement including first and second actuator members which, "when the deflecting mechanism is in the deflected configuration...extend across the arc outside the deflecting mechanism via the lateral opening and, when the deflecting mechanism is in the aligned configuration, the first and

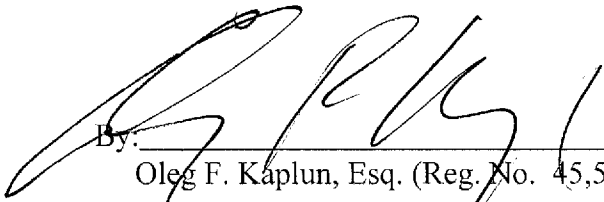
sencond actuator members are fully received therewithin." For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are allowable for the reasons included in the previously submitted Amendment filed on December 18, 2009.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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